



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Press Release

---

For Immediate Release

November 25, 2008

Contact: BreAnda Northcutt

Lindsay VanLaningham

916-324-9670

### **Governor Names Recipients of State's Top Environmental Leadership Awards**

SACRAMENTO – Tonight, 21 organizations will receive California's highest and most prestigious environmental honor – the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards – for their notable, voluntary contributions to conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing our environment, and building public-private partnerships.

"I'm proud to honor this year's award recipients for their sustained commitment, innovative solutions and strategic investment to protect our environment and boost our economy," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Tonight's honorees have shown extraordinary leadership in modeling environmental stewardship with long-term goals in mind. California's long history of environmental leadership is due in large part to the companies and organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to preserving our natural resources."

Honorees will accept awards at a ceremony in the Byron Sher Auditorium at the California Environmental Protection Agency headquarters building in Sacramento. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25, and is open to the press.

"We just returned from the Governors' Global Climate Summit where international leaders discussed what can be done in various sectors, so I'm pleased that we have so many people on a local level in a variety of fields showcasing their sustainable initiatives. These are true leaders in today's world of balancing our most precious resources and our growing economy," said Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection.

The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards program was established in 1993. Recipients are selected by a large panel of evaluators and the Secretaries of Cal/EPA, the Resources Agency, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the State and Consumer Services Agency, and the Governor's Office.

For more information about GEELA, see the attached sheet or visit the Cal/EPA Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/>.

\*\* Winner Summary Attached \*\*

# # #



## **Climate Change**

*Innovative and forward thinking approaches that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on public health and our vast natural resources*

- **Orange County: University of California, Irvine's Sustainable Transportation Program** engages the campus community in efforts to improve and expand green transportation options, increase awareness of environmental impacts, and encourage greater participation in sustainable transportation programs.
- **Yolo County: Dixon Ridge Farms' Energy Self Sufficiency Plan** is to eliminate all types of energy use by 2012, while also being carbon and nitrous-oxide negative by using non-food sources for energy. A working model of innovation, the farm pioneered Biologically Integrated Orchard Systems to reduce pesticide and fertilizer usage in walnut production, re-circulate irrigation water runoff and embrace alternative sources of energy.
- **Marin County: Marin Sanitary Services'** has pioneered state-of-the-art recycling methods, technologies, and programs resulting in a 75% recycling rate -- higher than another county in the state and leading the nation. They also recycled more than 547 tons of waste water per day -- saving the equivalent of 2 million trees and 900 million gallons of water.

## **Children's Environmental Education**

*Unique and exemplary educational programs and curricula that align with California's academic content standards and raise children's awareness of, and involvement in, environmental issues*

- **Alameda County: Golden Gate Audubon Society's Eco Programs** offers year-round environmental education to elementary school students in and out of the classroom. Begun in 1999, the programs serve over 10,000 students and community members in the Bay Area. The programs provide much needed environmental education, inspire environmental stewardship, engage local residents in protecting wildlife and habitats, and improves student achievement in science, math and literacy.
- **Contra Costa County: Water District's Water Education Program** is a comprehensive water-related program for students in grades 2-12 that targets students in over 100 service-area schools with a wide-ranging water-related environmental science program. The elements of the Water Education Program are designed to complement and build upon each other while supporting core curriculum and content standards.
- **Orange County: Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors program** provides more than 125,000 students in Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties with hands-on environmental education through one of Inside the Outdoor's three California academic programs. Inside the Outdoors provides free professional development training for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and also has a public program.

## **Ecosystem and Watershed Stewardship**

*Innovative and sustainable approaches to land and water management that restore or protect natural conditions, functions and processes, and provide economic, social and environmental benefits*

- **San Mateo County: Pharmaceutical Disposal Program** in partnership with the San Mateo County Police and Sheriffs Association offers the public a convenient, viable, and environmentally friendly alternative to flushing medicines into the wastewater stream or placing them in municipal landfills. The program places disposal receptacles in law enforcement agencies for proper disposal and to help avoid their unintended use, prevent recreational use, and to stop environmental contamination.
- **Contra Costa County: Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour** was created to educate Alameda and Contra Costa County residents about native plants and their contribution to water conservation, the natural habitat, and the reduction of pesticide use.

## **Sustainable Practices or Facilities**

*Pioneering efforts to integrate environmental values and conservation of natural resources into long-term decision making and management of businesses and facilities*

- **San Francisco County: Ferry Building** is a unique and exemplary project because of its resourceful conservation efforts, public food marketplace, green initiatives, and environmentally friendly commuter benefits. It's most measurable project, among many, is an aggressive recycling and waste management program, which results in a 64% diversion rate for its more than 50 offices and shops, 800 employees, and 10,000-20,000 shoppers per day.
- **Sonoma County: Kunde Family Estates** uses sustainable, organic and biodynamic farming practices to demonstrate its commitment to our environment including producing the best quality wine and grapes possible, protecting the environment, conserving natural resources, maintaining long-term viability of agricultural lands, and supporting the economic and social well-being of farm and winery employees.
- **Alameda County: Juvenile Justice Center** is a model health, wellness and youth development center and is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold-rated green building of its kind in the country. The building's exceptional levels of efficiency include a water-efficient irrigation technology; waterless urinals and water-efficient plumbing fixtures; an 850 kW rooftop solar panel to provide over 60% of the building's energy demands; contracts to purchase 100% of the building energy needs from wind generation; and, recycling 93% of construction waste.
- **Marin County: Fireman's Fund Insurance Company** offers specialized coverage for green buildings to spur sustainable development in California and the nation. The first green insurance product offered owners a 5% discount in their insurance premiums if their building was certified green. They expanded their green coverage to policyholders who upgraded to green during reconstruction and included extra costs to recycle construction debris.
- **Statewide: Bank of America** has a legacy of environmental leadership dating back 2 decades when it created its \$20 billion, 10-year environmental initiative to encourage the development of environmental friendly sustainable business practices through lending, investing, philanthropy and the creation of new products and services. Some of their efforts include investments in renewable energy and forests projects. They have installed energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems in their retail banks, cut paper usage by 40% and set aggressive greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. They also offer services such as a green rewards card that enables reward points to be invested in renewable energy projects and offers a \$3,000 credit to employees who purchase hybrid cars.

## Environmental and Economic Partnerships

*Efforts that foster unique, cooperative approaches between the private, public, and/or nonprofit sectors to achieve demonstrable results in both environmental and economic improvement*

- **Fresno County: Valley Clean Air Now's Tune in and Tune up program** is a clean-up program designed to help reduce pollutants generated by out-of-tune vehicles in San Joaquin Valley. Vehicles are tested in minutes with a tailpipe emission testing device and, if identified as high polluters, owners are provided a \$500 voucher in emission-related repairs or maintenance at a local automotive shop. The program assists low-income communities with vehicle maintenance to empower residents to obtain repairs for high-polluting vehicles. A typical Tune In and Tune Up event removes approximately 3,000 tons of carbon monoxide, 300 tons of hydrocarbons, and 150 tons of oxides of nitrogen from the air in one year.
- **Alameda County: GRID Alternatives' Solar Affordable Housing Program** has been bringing energy efficiency to low-income neighborhoods since 2001. The program brings together economic and environmental sustainability by helping low-income homeowners install solar electric systems on their own homes. Each solar system install results in an average savings of \$10,000 in avoided energy costs over a system's lifetime.
- **San Luis Obispo County: Cayucos Land Conservancy** is an all-volunteer land trust which partners with the California State Parks and other organizations. The Conservancy works cooperatively and creatively with land owners to conserve land. It's a small non-profit funded by citizen donations and project grants and run by a local board. To date, Cayucos Land Conservancy has permanently protected over 1,250 acres and several threatened miles of scenic California coastline, open space and habitat.

## Comprehensive Land Use Planning

*Demonstrates social equity and adequate housing; cost effective infrastructure and transportation; water and energy efficiencies; and open space conservation to protect forests, agriculture, watersheds, and other ecosystem values*

- **Sonoma County: Coddling Enterprises' Sonoma Mountain Village** is being designed as one of the most advanced sustainable communities in the world. The 200-acre community of 1,900 homes is being created as a deeply sustainable, mixed-use village that will utilize the deepest green technology as well as the latest new urbanism and smart growth planning tools. Through use of existing and the creation of new conservation measures, the community is being designed to beat California's current energy code by at least 50%, have energy needs met with on-site renewable power, and reduce solid waste to reach a goal of 98% reduction.

## Technological and Market Innovation

*Innovation in manufacturing or product marketing to cost effectively improve environmental and public health, productivity and sustainability of forests, farms, or other natural resource lands, and conservation of open space and agriculture*

- **Yolo County: Marrone Organic Innovations' GreenMatch® EX** is an effective, cost-efficient nonselective herbicide with no safety or environmental issues and is designed to replace weed control techniques that are environmentally damaging and can pose health risks. The product is an organic herbicide based on lemongrass oil shown to provide broad-spectrum weed control for four weeks. It also meets the requirements of the National Organic Program rule for use in organic crop production.
- **Orange County: Rent a Green Box** is the first comprehensive, zero waste, packing and moving system in America. It converts trash into sustainable packing and moving products. Its Recopack boxes can be used over 400 times before wearing out, when they are reground into

other Recopacks. The company uses pallets made from over 700 recycled diapers, Recocubes, made from recycled newspaper sludge and Expandos made from 100% recycled food and cereal boxes. Each Recopack is projected to save over 12 trees in its lifetime. Every 100 rented Recopacks removes more than 500 plastic bottles from landfills, prevents more than 350 pounds of packing and moving waste from entering landfills, and saves more than 500 gallons of fuel and 300 gallons of water consumed in the making, transporting, and distribution of cardboard. The company delivers each order in their green fleet of delivery trucks which are powered by biofuel and waste vegetable oil and reduce emissions by 78%.

### **Sustainable Communities**

*Exemplary project design or development of local communities and landscapes that makes efficient use of land, protects public health and safety, and conserves local watersheds, habitats, and other sensitive lands*

- **San Francisco County: The Treasure Island Development Authority** oversees the redevelopment of San Francisco's Treasure Island. The Treasure Island Redevelopment Project consists of 450 acres on Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands. Highlights of the project include clustered development around a comprehensive transit hub which will allow two-thirds of the land to be preserved for parks and open space; green infrastructure initiatives to enable the development plan to achieve gold certification under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Neighborhood Development Program; generation of solar and wind energy; affordable housing; the creation of over 5,000 temporary construction jobs and 2,500 permanent jobs; and the creation of comprehensive economic development opportunities.

### **Enhanced Environmental and Economic Leadership**

*Prior award recipients who have sustained exceptional leadership and can demonstrate significant and robust improvements in voluntary efforts recognized in previous years which conserve California's precious resources, protect and enhance our environment and/or strengthen the economy*

- **Mendocino County: Fetzer Vineyards** continues to be a pioneer in the implementation of sustainable practices for production and marketing of grapes and wine. The company was the first winery in California to be completely sustainable. Building on its successes, Fetzer has developed significant environmental initiatives including the use of a renewable energy system that is currently the largest in the wine industry, the mitigation of carbon emissions and climate change, improved energy efficiency innovations, organic wine grape and wine production, resource conservation, waste reduction, and earth-friendly bottle use.